

1 variations will become apparent to those skilled in the art in light of the foregoing  
2 description. Accordingly, it is intended that the present invention embrace all such  
3 alternatives, modifications and variations as fall within the scope of the appended  
4 claims.

5 What is claimed is:  
6

continued on next page

1. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:
  - a television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;
  - a display coupled to the set-top box for displaying output from the set-top box;
  - an input device suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;
  - a database operatively coupled to the internal programmed processor, the database comprising a catalog of merchandise available for purchase by a consumer; and
  - catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising order entry program means, operating on the programmed processor, for permitting a consumer to enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog of merchandise.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a swipe card reader coupled to the programmed processor to permit the consumer to enter a swipe card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the catalog of merchandise.
4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the input device comprises a keyboard.

1        5.     The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display comprises a  
2 television display.

3  
4        6.     The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display comprises a high  
5 definition television display.

6  
7        7.     The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the database resides on a  
8 storage device situated within the set-top box, and further comprising a connection  
9 to a catalog server, to thereby download updates of the catalog of merchandise to  
10 the database.

11  
12       8.     The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the database resides on a  
13 catalog server, coupled to the set-top box via a cable television connection.

14  
15       9.     The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a printer coupled to  
16 the set-top box.

17  
18       10.    The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for receiving  
19 updates to the database on a periodic basis.

1 11. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:  
2 a digital television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;  
3 a high definition television display coupled to the set-top box for displaying  
4 output from the set-top box;  
5 a keyboard suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;  
6 a storage device situated within the set-top box;  
7 a database residing on the storage device and operatively coupled to the  
8 internal programmed processor, the database comprising a catalog of merchandise  
9 available for purchase by a consumer;  
10 means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis;  
11 catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for  
12 permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise;  
13 order entry program means, operating on the programmed processor, for  
14 permitting a consumer to enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog  
15 of merchandise;  
16 a swipe card reader coupled to the programmed processor to permit the  
17 consumer to enter a swipe card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the  
18 catalog of merchandise;  
19 a cable modem coupled to a catalog server, to thereby download updates  
20 of the catalog of merchandise to the database; and  
21 a printer coupled to the set-top box.  
22

1 12. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:  
2 a digital television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;  
3 a high definition television display coupled to the set-top box for displaying  
4 output from the set-top box;  
5 a keyboard suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;  
6 a cable modem coupled the programmed processor to access a catalog  
7 server;  
8 means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis  
9 a storage device situated within a catalog server accessible by the set-top  
10 box using the cable modem;  
11 a database residing on the storage device and operatively coupled to the  
12 internal programmed processor, the database comprising a catalog of merchandise  
13 available for purchase by a consumer;  
14 means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis;  
15 catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for  
16 permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise;  
17 order entry program means, operating on the programmed processor, for  
18 permitting a consumer to enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog  
19 of merchandise;

1           a swipe card reader coupled to the programmed processor to permit the  
2           consumer to enter a swipe card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the  
3           catalog of merchandise; and  
4           a printer coupled to the set-top box.

continued